

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of replacement drawings are being submitted to replace the informal drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84.

Attachment: Replacement Formal Drawings

REMARKS

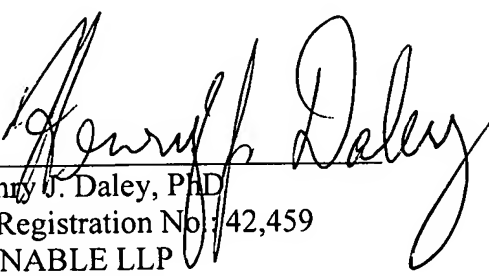
Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. All claims 1-38 remain without amendments as originally presented in this application.

The examiner noted that informal drawings were filed with this application and indicated that formal drawings are required to replace the informal drawings. Therefore, Applicant has submitted formal drawings along with this Response to replace the informal drawings. No new matter has been added.

The examiner rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Rigler et al (DE 10210737 A1). Applicant has submitted a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 along with this response to overcome this rejection. Rigler et al. published on March 20, 2003. The attached Declaration under Rule 131 by the current inventors demonstrates that they had conceived and reduced to practice at least the invention of independent claims 1 and 21 no later than January 7, 2003. The Rigler et al reference is thus disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Applicant thus respectfully submits that the current application is in condition for allowance and requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in any patent application processing fees pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17, including extension of time fees pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)-(d), associated with this communication and to credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Dated: May 30, 2008

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Attachments:

Formal Drawings
Inventor Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 with
Attachment A (Conference Presentation)